

# Alabama Historical Commission

## Cemetery Historical Markers & Plaques

County	Cemetery	Text
<b>Autauga</b>		
	White City Cemetery	<p>In 1870, Marbury Lumber Company donated land for the White Pond Methodist Church and Cemetery. It is believed that the first burial in the cemetery, marked only by a pile of bricks, took place that same year. The earliest marked grave is of Thomas Marsh who died in 1883. Lewis and Elizabeth Deramus donated additional land in 1897; Paul and Dovie Coker donated more land in 1927; and Rev. Alex L. Joiner donated the last parcel of land in c. 1929. The Methodist Church owned and supervised the cemetery until August 2004, at which time they transferred ownership to the White Pond Baptist Church.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2007 by Friends of White City Cemetery</p>
<b>Calhoun</b>		
	Crook Cemetery	<p>James Crook established this cemetery in 1837 on land he purchased from Creek Indians. In 1834, he and his family moved to this area from South Carolina. In Nov. 1837, Samuel M. Crook, grandson of James Crook, was the first person buried here. Although Crook Cemetery was established as a family burying ground, it was later opened for community burials. In the mid-1900s, W.L. McCullars donated additional land for the cemetery. State officials acknowledged the historical significance of Crook Cemetery by adding it to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register on Nov. 12, 2008.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2009 by Crook Cemetery, Inc.</p>
	Temple Beth El Section Hillside Cemetery	<p>In April 1888, the founders of a newly established Reform Jewish congregation purchased twenty-three lots in Hillside Cemetery to bury their deceased members. In 1987, the City of Anniston vacated right-of-way that allowed the Temple to expand the Jewish section. Among those interred here are the first Jewish citizens to settle in Anniston as well as the congregation's Holocaust survivors. The Temple Beth El section of Hillside Cemetery has been placed in the Alabama Historical Cemetery Register by the Alabama Historical Commission on December 15, 2008.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2009 by Temple Beth El Congregation</p>
<b>Coosa</b>		
	Peace & Goodwill Cemetery	<p>Peace &amp; Goodwill Cemetery is Coosa County's first African American Cemetery to be placed on the prestigious Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. It provides powerful insights about the diligence and commitment of our African ancestors. Family lineages interred here include former slaves, sharecroppers, educators, preachers, soldiers, and successful businessmen and women. These graves mark the journey of entire generations born in the 1840s and buried in the early 1900s. Most notably, Rev. Jacob and Betsy Moore, former slaves, purchased and donated the land for the cemetery in 1868. Family names found in the cemetery include: Drake, Goggans, Thomas, Ransaw, Leonard, McKinney, Crawford, Royals, and Hoyett. Preservation of this cemetery ensures that the historical symbolism embodied herein will never vanish, like so many others, now long forgotten.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2008 by Ralph Drake Vines II, Addie Mae Drake &amp; Quandara Ingram</p>
	Peace & Goodwill Cemetery (Plaque)	<p>Peace and Goodwill Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register by the Alabama Historical Commission</p> <p>Sponsored by Rev. Jacob &amp; Betsy Moore; Shack &amp; Lille Drake; and Kell &amp; Perlilure Drake</p>

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Escambia		
	Union Cemetery	<p>Union Cemetery has been an important resting place for Brewton's loved ones since at least 1879. State officials acknowledged the historical significance of Union Cemetery for our area by adding it to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register on April 7, 2006.</p> <p>Marked erected in 2007 by the City of Brewton</p>
Jefferson		
	Lakeview Cemetery	<p>This cemetery is owned by St. John Baptist Church in Edgewater and operated by Scott-McPherson Funeral Home, Inc. US Steel Corporation previously owned the area and it is historically associated with the Edgewater Mining Camp community established for the workers of Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TCI, later US Steel). The cemetery, now 8.5 acres, was deeded to St. John Baptist Church by US Steel on March 3, 2003. It is a non-profit cemetery.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected in 2007 by St. John Baptist Church</p>
	Mount Calvary Cemetery Clay, Alabama formerly Ayers, Alabama	<p>The oldest marked grave is that of Nancy Paerson, daughter of William S. Turner, who was born September 23, 1813, and died September 19, 1830. Jesse Taylor deeded land for this church and graveyard on February 15, 1856.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected in 2006 by Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church</p>
	Smithson Cemetery	<p>Smithson Cemetery</p> <p>Established September 1868 by Benjamin Worthington Smithson as a family burying ground.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected in 2008 by the Trustees of Smithson Cemetery</p>
	Zion Memorial Gardens	<p>Mt. Zion Baptist Church began burying here in the mid-1800s. On June 2, 1970, New Grace Hill Cemetery, Inc., a subsidiary of the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company in Birmingham, purchased this cemetery and officially named it Zion Memorial Gardens. Dr. A.G. Gaston (1892-1996) organized the Booker T. Washington Burial Society in 1923, responding to the lack of burial insurance available to African Americans. Gaston believed, "a proper funeral is of immense importance...it's the very least you can do for a man." Gaston incorporated the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company in 1932, which eventually became the largest African American owned insurance company in Alabama. Born in rural Marengo County, Alabama, as the grandson of former slaves, Arthur George Gaston was a trailblazer in the struggle for economic, business, and community development for African Americans in the twentieth century. Some of his numerous ventures included the Booker T. Washington Business College, Citizen's Federal Savings Bank, A.G. Gaston Construction Company, WENN Radio, A.G. Gaston Home for Senior Citizens, Vulcan Realty and Investment Corporation, and Smith-Gaston Funeral Home. Dr. Gaston dedicated himself to improving the lives of young African Americans through his work with the Boy's and Girl's Club, YMCA, and Boy Scouts. During the Civil Rights Movement, the A.G. Gaston Motel in downtown Birmingham became the headquarters for Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, and other prominent Civil Rights leaders. Dr. Gaston is interred in the mausoleum here. Zion Memorial Gardens consists of forty acres of land and contains approximately 300,000 gravesites. Three acres are reserved as the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected in 2006 by the Booker T. Washington Insurance Company, Inc.</p>

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<b>Macon</b>		
	Francis Marion Whatley Cemetery	<p>This cemetery was founded in 1900 when Francis Marion Whatley and Emma Whatley buried their daughter, Ophelia. A son of Simeon Whatley, Francis was a Confederate prisoner of war veteran. He was a prominent landowner, farmer, and cotton gin and warehouse businessman. He gave land to establish a school adjacent to this property and a church across the road.</p> <p>Private family cemetery. Closed to the public.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected in 2005</p>
<b>Marshall</b>		
	1883 Methodist Church Cemetery (Arab)	<p>A congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church North erected a log church, possibly named Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, adjacent to this cemetery in 1883. The church served as Arab's first school. The earliest marked grave is 1883, though older unmarked graves are likely present. In 1897 the congregation moved to Union Hill. The cemetery continued to be used into the early 1940s by the Methodist Episcopal Church South founded in 1892, which later became First United Methodist Church. Buried here are town founder Stephen Tuttle Thompson and other early settlers of the area. Civil War veterans including Confederate Private James L. McWhorter and Union Captain James Walter Elliott are also found here.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Marker erected by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney L. McDonald in 2008</p>
<b>Mobile</b>		
	Miller Family Cemetery	<p>Established 1868</p> <p>The earliest known graves are those of John and Elizabeth Miller, the children of Francis William Miller who emigrated from Sweden and Jane Thompson who emigrated from Ireland. Miller family descendants settled the area between Spring Hill and Wheelerville on the Old Shell Road in Mobile County working as charcoal burners, saw mill operators, and fruit orchard planters. Francis Oliver Miller, a son of Francis and Jane Miller, reserved the cemetery and right-of-way in a deed on April 3, 1926.</p> <p>Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register</p> <p>Erected by the Miller Family Cemetery Association 2005</p>
<b>Monroe</b>		
	Johnson-McDuffie Cemetery (Plaque)	<p>Johnson-McDuffie Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register by the Alabama Historical Commission</p> <p>Sponsored by Virginia McDuffie Hybart Taylor</p>
	SHILOH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY	<p>This cemetery, established in 1884 in Jones Mill, is among the oldest in this part of Alabama. Constructed in 1884, Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church is the oldest building still standing in Frisco City (formerly Jones Mill).</p> <p>The Bodiford, Busey, Grimes, Sawyer, Watts, Wasden and Wiggins families incrementally donated the land on which the church and cemetery are located.</p> <p>The earliest legible date on a grave marker is 1885 for Sarah Ann Holt, the first wife of Elder Burney Sawyer.</p> <p>Elder Sawyer, founder of Shiloh Church, preached the</p>

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		<p>first sermon on May 31, 1884. Elder Sawyer served as Shiloh's pastor for 53 years until his death in 1937. Elder R. P. Hendrix served as pastor from 1938 until 1968. Shiloh is the final resting place of the early settlers and their descendants who shaped the history of this community. Some of the graves are not marked and some markers cannot be read; nevertheless, time and nature cannot erase the life these people pioneered for us. In addition to more than 100 members of the Sawyer family, some other family names appearing multiple times in this cemetery include: Baas, Bailey, Blanton, Bodiford, Brown, Byrd, Carter, Castillow, Davidson, Enzor, Evans, Faulk, Feaster, Felts, Floyd, Giddens, Green, Greene, Hale, Hanks, Harrison, Hendrix, Hendrixs, Johnson, Jones, Lambert, Manning, McArthur, Mosley, Murphy, Norris, Sims, Skipper, Smith, Ward, Wasden, Webb and Weeks. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register through the efforts of Dr. Gwynn Akin Bowers and Mrs. Dorothy Sawyer Sims. Marker erected in 2008 by Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Maintenance Society with generous contributions from Shiloh families.</p>
<b>Montgomery</b>		
	Lucas Hill Cemetery Circa 1816	<p>The Founders of The Waters relocated and restored this historic cemetery in May 2005. The original cemetery site, located along the Old Federal Road beyond the boundary of the Creek Indian lands at Line Creek, had fallen into ruin due to years of neglect. The Lucas Hill Cemetery is the final resting place for some of the earliest settlers who established plantations and farmsteads along the Mount Meigs Terrace now present day eastern Montgomery County, Alabama. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2006 by The Waters at Waugh, LLC.</p>
	Ray Cemetery Est. 1849	<p>John W. Ray and his wife, Martha; their infant son; and her fifteen-year-old brother, James R. Conyers, moved to Mt. Meigs from Greene County, Georgia. He and his older brother, Isaac Ray, owned extensive landholdings along Vaughn and Taylor Roads. These early settlers were devout Missionary Baptists. John W. Ray assisted in organizing Antioch Baptist Church, the first church of any denomination organized in Montgomery County, in 1818 at Mt. Meigs. John W. Ray, James R. Conyers, and members of the Ray, Conyers, Nicholson, Handey, and Relfe families are buried here. Among them are veterans of four wars: Dr. John C. Nicholson, Surgeon 1 AL Cavalry Regt, Civil War; his uncle, Vincent Cogburn, veteran of the Mexican War; Mason Handey, Navy, World War I; and John Robert Relfe, Captain, US Army, World War II. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2006 by the East Montgomery County Historical Society and the Handey Family</p>
<b>Morgan</b>		
	Confederate Section of Decatur City Cemetery	<p>Beneath this hallowed ground lay the remains of fifty-five Confederate soldiers. They gave their lives to establish Southern Independence, protect their homes, and preserve State's Rights. These original headstones were placed in May 1903 by the Joe Wheeler Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. On June 3, 1903, a dedication service was</p>

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		held by the Daughters of the Confederacy and veterans of the Horace King Camp, United Confederate Veterans. This site was rededicated on April 26, 2005, by the Joe Wheeler Chapter No. 291 United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Liberty, Camp 580, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Decatur, Alabama. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register
	Skidmore Chapel Cemetery	On December 15, 1875, land for a cemetery and a chapel for Divine worship at this location was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church South by the Skidmore, Lassitter, and Griffin families. The oldest grave with a burial date is 1872; however, many graves are marked by only a tablet stone with no name or date given. The last dated burials were in 1919. The total number of graves is 214 and 43 of the graves have headstones or ledger stones. The majority of burials with headstones are those of the Briscoe, Wheeler, Skidmore, and Winfrey families. The chapel was located adjacent to the south side of the cemetery at the southwest corner. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2007 by the Skidmore Chapel Cemetery Association & the Briscoe Association of Alabama
<b>Pickens</b>		
	Garden Cemetery (Plaque)	Garden Cemetery has been placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register by the Alabama Historical Commission Sponsored by Garden Cemetery Association
<b>Shelby</b>		
	Benton Family Cemetery	"Benton-Oldham Cemetery" Located on the site of the original Benton homestead, this cemetery was founded July 12, 1842, with the burial of early Shelby County settler Jesse Benton (1798-1842). All who rest herein are members of the Benton family by birth, marriage, or close friendship. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2006 by Friends and Descendants of Jesse Benton
	Harpersville Garden of Memories	The oldest known grave is that of Orpah Moore (1772-1823), consort to Rev. (Doctor) Lemuel Moore. This is the final resting place of American Revolutionary War Patriot William Jennings (1761-1840) and the professed burial site of the Last Creek Indian Chief of the Kewahatchie Tribe, Boz Shepard and his family (c. 1836-37). On January 24, 1964, a devastating tornado destroyed most of the oldest grave markers and killed ten citizens, including five members of the same Kelly family. Thousands of Shelby County's earliest settlers and area residents are buried here. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2006 by Friends of the Historic Harpersville Memory Gardens
	Mount Tabor United Methodist Church Cemetery	This cemetery was established August 20, 1857, by George G. and Purnelea Crawford. In an earnest desire to promote God's Kingdom on Earth, they conveyed this site to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and their successors. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Erected in 2005 by Friends and Families of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church
	Nabors Cemetery	"Ozley-McLane-Nabors Cemetery" Established October 15, 1868, with the burial of Elizabeth "Betsy" Nabors. Her loving husband, John, followed her in death only fifteen days later. They are buried side by side. Many local pioneer families chose to share this hallowed ground for their departed loved ones. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Erected by the Nabors Cemetery Association

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	Old Quinn Cemetery	Established June 2, 1849 by VETERAN OF WAR OF 1812, LOFTIN QUINN In Consideration of His Love for the Church He Conveyed the Burying Ground to the Trustees of Liberty Church And Their Successors Listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Erected by Friends of Old Quinn Burying Ground
	Shelby Springs Confederate Cemetery	"Old Soldiers Grave Yard" The Confederate Army established a soldier's home and hospital here (1863-1865) as a part of the CSA Camp Winn Training Site. Father Leray and the Sisters of Mercy staffed the hospital after fleeing Civil War destruction in Vicksburg, MS. They brought with them by train many wounded and sick Confederate soldiers. This existing public cemetery was expanded for those soldiers who died of battle wounds and illnesses. Civilian burials continued until 1921. Listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Erected by the Shelby County Historical Society, Inc.
<b>Tallapoosa</b>		
	Cross Key Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery	Cross Key has the distinction of being the first cemetery and the first African American Cemetery in Tallapoosa County to be placed on the prestigious Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. Rev. Louis McNeal, a former slave, purchased and donated land for the original church and cemetery in 1866. Notably, this was one year after the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery. Those buried here include slaves, sharecroppers, clergy, apprentices, soldiers, and entrepreneurs. Many older graves are marked only by a stone with no name or date given. This cemetery must be preserved because it honors our past and is a beacon of hope for posterity. The majority of families interred herein include: Kelly, Gamble, Wheeler, Porter, Fuller, Allen, Russell, Odram, Gaddis, Johnson, Flowers, and Robinson. Listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register Marker erected in 2008 by Rev. Dr. Joe Nathan Kelly; First Lady, Denise Kelly; and Quandara Ingram